



Patent Application
of
Raimond Lasar

TITLE: BODY PIERCING DECORATION SYSTEM

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS:

[01]. None

BACKGROUND - - FIELD OF THE INVENTION:

[02]. The invention concerns a system for producing body decorations in general and a system for utilizing body piercings for decorative purposes in particular.

BACKGROUND - - DESCRIPTION OF PRIOR ART:

[03]. People have had the desire to adorn their bodies since time immemorial, and so today there exists a wide range of decorative elements and methods for body decoration. Many of these are applied immediately to the human body, for example rings, earrings, as well as body piercing pins, which have become increasingly popular in recent years, and which are used to pierce various parts of the body.

[04]. For body piercing, an opening or channel is first pierced through the human tissue to allow a body-piercing pin to be fastened in place, similar to how an earring pin is attached. A typical body-piercing pin used for this purpose will have a curved rod that is pierced through the artificially created opening in the body. At one end of the rod is a decorative element, for example a gem or silver, gold, platinum or niobium jewelry. After the rod has been pushed through the body opening,

RECEIVED
SEP 10 2001
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

a securing ball is screwed onto the opposite end of the rod so that the body-piercing pin cannot slip out of the body opening.

[05]. One of the disadvantages of the body piercing systems and devices that are currently in use is that the entire body-piercing pin must be removed in order to replace the body decoration. This is because the decorative element is most often fixed to an end of the body piercing section. In order to replace a body decoration, the securing ball is screwed off the body piercing section and the rod is pulled back out of the opening in the body to then insert another body piercing pin in place as was described above. This procedure is awkward for parts of the body that are accessible only with difficulty and may involve pain and the risk of inflammation for the person with the piercing. Compared to standard earrings, pain and risk of inflammation may be greater with larger body piercings, due to the length of the piercing, the curvature of the body piercing pin and the location of the piercing. Also, the rod and the securing ball are typically made of the same type of precious metal, so that the user must have an expensive separate rod and matching securing ball for each body-piercing pin, thus raising costs.

[06]. A body piercing is created by a medical piercing needle that cuts the skin away with its razor sharp edge, filling the tube of the piercing pin with the body tissue that has been cut away where the initial sterile adornment will be inserted upon extraction of the piercing pin. With all new piercings it is very important that the piercing channel be given time to heal, to grow an internal tissue or skin. Usually this healing time period varies from three months to as many as six months, depending upon the type and location of the piercing. The person that has a new piercing must keep the initial adornment in the body channel during the healing time. If the adornment is changed or removed, the piercing will take longer to heal properly.

[07]. The initial body adornment that is used in a new piercing is usually more functional than decorative. This is due to the fact that the primary purpose a new piercing adornment performs is

to keep the new body piercing open during the healing process, rather than being particularly decorative, which reduces the cost for the person that installs the piercing. So, as the initial purpose of a piercing is to display a body decoration, it is not uncommon that during this initial healing period a person with a new piercing might wish to change the decorative element.

[08]. In German registered design DE29622288U1, disclosure is made of a body decoration with an exchangeable decorative element or elements, in the shape of discs having a center hole, by attaching a separate, threaded pin through to a base. One of a number of disadvantages of this system is that a special positioning pin is used, which involves additional cost and makes installation and removal complicated, as it is difficult to turn the pin in order to remove it from the threaded base. Further, the disc is usually roughly 1 mm (0.04 in.) in thickness and is uncomfortable because its edges can cut into the surrounding skin.

[09]. In US patent 6,105,392 to Biagi, disclosure is made of a means of replacing an adornment that requires the decorative section to be removed, leaving the back element in place in the piercing, but able to fall out, as the back section that remains has no means of holding it in place. The back is left in the piercing to provide a guide for the replacement of the decorative element. This device, called an internal threaded labret, is common in the art, and is mainly used for piercings of the lip, where the common ball-shaped attachment might prove uncomfortable or inconvenient.

[10]. In US patent 4,783,974 to Hernandez, disclosure is made of a safety device with a means to allow a "female" decorative portion of an earring to be detached, with as little as one pound of force, from a "male" wear post which remains in the ear piercing.

[11]. In US patent 5,505,061 to Fleury, disclosure is made of a detachable jewelry apparatus wherein an interchanging or securing apparatus is substantially concealed so as to appear as an integral unit to a viewer.

- [12]. In US patent 5,438,850 to Keating, disclosure is made of a means for adapting clothing buttons to be used as jewelry, specifically, earrings. The Keating '850 patent concedes that the attachment method is not novel.
- [13]. In US patent 5,048,310 to Riley, disclosure is made of changeable earring pendants.
- [14]. None of the above mentioned references disclose or claim a body piercing pin assembly comprising an attachment section, a body piercing section and a head section, the head section being adapted to receive a plurality of decorative sections having mounts attached. None of the references refers to the pain, discomfort and infection risk that can occur with body piercings that are larger than an earring, as none of the references are intended to be used with larger piercings. None of the references disclose a method of securely replacing decorative sections without running the risk of loss or damage to the attachment or decorative sections.

SUMMARY:

- [15]. The body decoration system in accordance with the current invention includes a body-piercing section that is inserted into a body opening such that an end of the body-piercing section protrudes on either side of the body opening. The body decoration system further includes a fastening section that has a larger diameter than the body piercing section so that when these two parts are joined to each other it is not possible for the body piercing section to be pulled out or slip out in one direction. The body decoration system further includes a head section, attached to the body piercing section, for fastening a decorative section in place. The decorative section can be fastened securely to the head section, but can also be removed so that it can be exchanged with another decorative section, without needing to remove the body piercing section from the opening and without needing to detach the body piercing section from either the head section or the attachment section.

DRAWING FIGURES:

- [16]. Fig. 1 illustrates an exploded illustration in diagram form of a first embodiment of the current invention, showing an exploded view of a typical decorative section and a head section which mates with the decorative section.
- [17]. Fig. 2 illustrates a front view in diagram form of the first embodiment of the current invention.
- [18]. Fig. 3 illustrates a side view in diagram form of the first embodiment of the current invention.
- [19]. Fig. 4 illustrates an exploded illustration in diagram form of a second embodiment of the current invention.
- [20]. Fig. 5 illustrates an exploded view in diagram form of a third embodiment of the current invention.
- [21]. Fig. 6 illustrates a side view in diagram form of a fourth embodiment of the current invention.
- [22]. Fig. 7 illustrates a side view in diagram form of a fifth embodiment of the current invention with a decorative section removed from a head section.
- [23]. Fig. 8 illustrates a side view in diagram form of a fifth embodiment of the current invention with the decorative section attached to the head section.
- [24]. Fig. 9 illustrates a side view in diagram form of a sixth embodiment of the current invention, wherein a body piercing section is straight and a head section is adapted to receive the straight body piercing section along the axis of symmetry of the decorative element.

[25]. Fig 10 illustrates a side view in diagram form of a alternate sixth embodiment of the current invention, wherein a head section is provided as a separate unit that has two secondary attachments for one of two types of body piercing sections, for example: curved or straight, long or short, thin or thick. In this embodiment, a decorative section is provided which mates with the head section, allowing the user to use their own body piercing section and attachment section.

OBJECTS AND ADVANTAGES

[26]. Accordingly, several objects and advantages of the current invention are:

- (a) to create a body decorating system for application of decorative elements, by utilizing body piercings, that facilitates replacement of decorative sections, and does so in a simpler manner than is in present use;
- (b) to create a body decorating system for application of decorative elements, by utilizing body piercings, that is more an economical than is in present use;
- (c) to create a body decorating system for application of decorative elements, by utilizing body piercings, that reduces pain and prevents inflammation which are present in devices that are in present use;
- (d) to create a body decoration system for application of decorative elements, in particular a body piercing pin assembly, that avoids or at least reduces the disadvantages of systems for body adornment that are in present use;
- (e) to create a body decorating system for application of decorative elements, by utilizing body piercings, that provides a flexible system of body decoration wherein

users are able to utilize existing body piercing decorations by adding a removable decorative element;

- (f) to create a body decorating system for application of decorative elements, by utilizing body piercings, that allows piercings that utilize curved or straight body piercing sections to utilize removable decorative sections.

[27]. As a useful aspect of the invention, the decorative section includes a primary attachment, preferably a threaded pin or threaded cylinder, a cylindrical pin, a pin with a section of gradually increasing diameter or a bayonet-type attachment; and the head section includes a complementary primary attachment so that the head section fits together and engages the primary attachment of the decorative section. The primary attachment of the head section is preferably an internal thread, a rubber sleeve, spring element or bayonet-type attachment. In this manner the decorative section is attached to the head section, remaining attached because of the shape involved, locking action, or friction between the head section and the decorative section.

[28]. In the following portion of this application, the invention is explained in greater detail by way of sample designs, with reference made to the accompanying illustrations. The same reference symbols designate identical or similar components in these illustrations. Numerals having the same suffix amongst the different figures are intended to indicate components with substantially similar roles in other embodiments (i.e. numerals 1, 101, 201, 301, 401, and 501 are decorative sections of the first, second, third, forth, fifth and sixth embodiments respectively).

[29]. REFERENCE NUMERALS IN DRAWINGS:

1	Decorative Section of First Embodiment	104	Ring Shaped Fastening Section of 103
2	Decorative Element of First Embodiment	107	Cylinder-Shaped Pin
3	Decorative Element Mounting of First Embodiment	108	Conical Hollow Mounting Area of 109
4	Ring-Shaped Fastening Section	108a	Cylindrical Hollow Fastening Area of 109
5	Hollow Area of Mounting 3	109	Head Section of Second Embodiment 126
6	Ring-Shaped Mount Bordering Edge	110	Resilient Sleeve of 108a
7	Threaded Pin	111	Cylindrical Hollow in Sleeve 110
8	Hollow Area of Head Section 9	116	Circular Stop in Hollow Area 108
9	Head Section of First Embodiment	117	Ring Shaped Surface of 104
10	Primary Internal Threading of Head Section 9	126	Body Decoration System, Second Embodiment
12	Flattened Area of Head Section 9	201	Decorative Section of Third Embodiment
13	Diameter of Hollow Head Area 8	202	Decorative Element of Third Embodiment
14	Diameter of Bordering Ring 15	203	Decorative Element Mount of Third Embodiment
15	Bordering Ring of Flattened Area 12	203a	Tip of Mount 203
16	Ring-Shaped Stop	204	Ring Shaped Fastening Section of 203
17	Ring-Shaped Surface of Fastening Ring 4	207	Short Pin attached at Tip of Mount 203a
18	Internal Threading in Head for 19	207a	Ball-Shaped Fastening Section
19	Body Piercing Section	208	Conical Hollow Area of Head Section 209
20	External Threading of 19 Attaching to 18	208a	Diameter of Hollow Area 208
21	External Threading for Fastening Section 24	209	Head Section of Third Embodiment
24	Fastening Section	210	Cylindrically-Shaped Hollow of Head Section 209
25	Primary Attachment of Fastening Section 24	211	Spring
26	Body Decoration System, First Embodiment	212	Diameter of Spring 211
101	Decorative Section of Second Embodiment	217	Ring Shaped Surface of 204
102	Decorative Element of Second Embodiment	226	Body Decoration System, Third Embodiment
103	Conical Decorative Element Mount	301	Decorative Section of Fourth Embodiment
103a	Tip of Mount 103	302	Decorative Element of Fourth Embodiment

303	Threaded Decorative Element 302 Mount	501	Decorative Section of Sixth Embodiment
304	Ring Shaped Fastening Section of 302	509	Head Section of Sixth Embodiment
307	Internal Threading of Hollow Area 308	509a	Alternate Head Section of Sixth Embodiment
308	Cylindrical Hollow in 309	510	Primary Attachment of Head Section 509
309	Head Section of Fourth Embodiment	518	Secondary Attachment of Head Section 509
316	Circular Stop of Head Section 309	518a	First Alternate Secondary Attachment of 509a
317	Ring Shaped Surface of 304	518b	Second Alternate Secondary Attachment of 509
326	Body Decoration System, Fourth Embodiment	519	Body Piercing Section of Sixth Embodiment
401	Decorative Section of Fifth Embodiment	519a	Straight Body Piercing Section of Sixth Embodiment
402	Decorative Element of Fifth Embodiment	519b	Curved Body Piercing Section of Sixth Embodiment
403	Cylindrical Decorative Element Mount	520	Secondary Attachment of Body Piercing Section 519
404	Ring Shaped Fastening Section of 403	520a	Secondary Attachment of 519a
407	Mounting Pin of Decorative Element Mount 403	520b	Secondary Attachment of 519b
408	Cylindrical Hollow Mounting Area of Head 409	521	Primary Attachment of Body Piercing Section 519
408b	Base of Cylindrical Mounting Area 408	524	Fastening Section of Sixth Embodiment
409	Head Section, Fifth Embodiment	525	Primary Attachment of Fastening Section 524
410	Cushioning Section of Mounting Area 408	526	Body Decoration System of Sixth Embodiment
411	Attachment Groove of 408 for Pin 407a		
426	Body Decoration System, Fifth Embodiment		

DESCRIPTION:**FIGS. 1-3, FIRST EMBODIMENT: THREADEDLY ENGAGING PIN-PRIMARY ATTACHMENT**

- [30]. Fig. 1 shows a first embodiment of a body decoration system 26, with a decorative section 1 consisting of a jewel or similar decorative element 2, for example a polished diamond, and a conical-joint-shaped mounting 3 for decorative element 2. Conical-joint-shaped mounting 3 has a ring-shaped fastening section 4 having a ring shaped edge 6 with which decorative element 2 is permanently fastened in a conical-joint-shaped hollow area 5 of conical-joint-shaped mounting 3 in a manner that is known by specialists in the area, for example by bordering edge 6 of ring-shaped fastening section 4. Conical-joint-shaped mounting 3 has a tip 3a where a primary externally threaded pin 7 is attached that runs parallel to an axis of rotational symmetry A of conical-joint-shaped mounting 3. Conical-joint-shaped mounting 3 fits in an internal hollow area 8 of a head section 9, when threaded pin 7 is screwed into place in a primary internal threading 10 in head section 9 that mates with primary external threaded pin 7.
- [31]. Head section 9 has an internal cone-shaped hollow area 8 and a flattened area 12. Axis of symmetry A of internal cone-shaped hollow area 8 runs perpendicular to the level of flattened area 12. Hollow area 8 has a diameter 13 in the level of flattened area 12. Head section 9 also has a ring 15 that borders flattened area 12, having a diameter 14. Diameter 13 of hollow area 8 is somewhat smaller than diameter 14 of ring 15 that borders flattened area 12 such that a circular ring-shaped stop 16 is present for conical-joint-shaped mounting 3 in the level of flattened area 12 of head section 9. A ring-shaped surface 17 of ring-shaped fastening section 4 facing threaded pin 7 serves as a counter stop for circular ring-shaped stop 16 of head section 9.

- [32]. Head section **9** has a secondary internal threading **18** that forms an angle α of about 103 degrees to axis of symmetry **A** of hollow area **8** and primary internal threading **10** of head section **9**.
- [33]. A curved body piercing section **19**, having a circular cross-section, has a secondary external threading **20** that is screwed into secondary internal threading **18** of head section **9**. Body piercing section **19** has a primary external threading **21**. An axis **B** of secondary external threading **20** of body piercing section **19** and an axis **C** of primary external threading **21** of body piercing section **19** form an angle β of about 120 degrees as a result of the curvature of body piercing section **19**. A fastening section **24**, with a primary internal threading **25**, is attached to primary external threading **21** of body piercing section **19**.
- [34]. Conical-joint-shaped mounting **3**, head section **9**, body piercing section **19** and fastening section **24** consist of a precious metal, for example silver, gold, platinum or niobium or are at least coated with a precious metal. External threading **7**, **20** & **21** and internal threading **10**, **18** & **25** are manufactured in a similar manner.
- [35]. Fig. 2 shows a front view of assembled body decoration system **26** of Fig. 1 in diagram form.
- [36]. Fig. 3 shows a partially transparent side view in diagram form of assembled body decoration system **26** of Fig. 1.

FIG. 4 - SECOND EMBODIMENT: FRICTIONALLY ENGAGING PRIMARY ATTACHMENT

- [37]. Fig. 4 shows a second embodiment of a body-piercing pin assembly **126**. Body piercing section **19** and fastening section **24** are designed as they were for body decoration system **26**. A decorative section **101** is comprised of a decorative element **102** and a conical mounting **103** with

a tip **103a** of conical mounting **103** having a cylinder-shaped pin **107** having a diameter and no thread, attached to tip **103a** and centered about axis of rotational symmetry **A**. A ring-shaped surface **117** of a ring-shaped fastening section **104** of conical mounting **103**, facing cylinder-shaped pin **107**, serves as a counter stop for circular ring-shaped stop **116** of a head section **109**. Decorative section **101** utilizes a standard mounting technique, as is known in the art, to attach decorative element **102** to mount **103** using ring-shaped fastening section **104**.

[38]. Head section **109** forms a conical shaped hollow area **108** and a cylindrical shaped hollow fastening area **108a** centered about axis of rotational symmetry **A**, having a resilient sleeve **110** attached to cylindrical shaped hollow fastening area **108a**. Head section **109** also has a circular stop **116** bordering hollow area **108**. Resilient sleeve **110** has a cylinder-shaped hollow area **111** having a diameter that is somewhat less than the diameter of cylinder-shaped pin **107**, causing cylinder-shaped pin **107** to be held in place by resilient sleeve **110** by the force of friction when decorative section **101** has been inserted all the way up to circular stop **116** in conical shaped hollow area **108** of head section **109** such that ring-shaped surface **117** contacts circular stop **116**.

FIG. 5 - THIRD EMBODIMENT: SPRINGLY ENGAGING PIN PRIMARY ATTACHMENT

[39]. Figure 5 shows a third embodiment of a body decoration system **226** in accordance with the current invention. Body piercing section **19** and fastening section **24** are designed as they were for body decoration system **26 & 126**. A decorative section **201** is comprised of a decorative element **202** and a conical mounting **203** attached to decorative element **202**. Conical mounting **203** has a tip **203a** having a first end of a short, cylinder-shaped pin **207** attached to tip **203a**. A ball shaped fastening section **207a** with a gradually increasing diameter is centered about axis of rotational symmetry **A** and attached to a second end of short, cylinder-shaped pin **207**. A ring-shaped surface **217** of a ring-shaped fastening section **204** of conical mounting **203** faces ball-shaped

fastening section **207** and serves as a counter stop. Decorative section **201** utilizes a standard mounting technique to attach decorative element **202** to mount **203**, as described in the first embodiment.

- [40]. A head section **209** has a portion forming a conical shaped hollow area **208**, and a portion forming a cylindrical shaped hollow fastening area **210** having a diameter **208a** having a metal spring **211** having a diameter **212** that is narrower than diameter **208a** about axis of rotational symmetry **A** such that fastening section **207a** is held within cylindrical shaped hollow fastening area **210** when decorative section **201** is inserted into head section **209**. Head section **209** also has a circular stop **216** bordering hollow area **208** that contacts ring shaped surface **217** of ring shaped fastening section **204** when decorative section **201** is inserted into head section **209**.

FIG. 6 - FORTH EMBODIMENT: THREADEDLY ENGAGING CYLINDRICAL PRIMARY ATTACHMENT (PREFERRED EMBODIMENT)

- [41]. Figure 6 shows a forth embodiment of a body decoration system **326** in accordance with the current invention. Body piercing section **19** and fastening section **24** are designed as they were for body decoration system **26**, **126**, & **226**. A decorative section **301** is comprised of a decorative element **302**, a ring-shaped fastening section **304** attached to decorative element **302**, and a cylindrical, externally threaded mounting **303** attached to ring-shaped fastening section **304** and centered about axis of rotational symmetry **A**. A ring-shaped surface **317** of ring-shaped fastening section **304** of decorative section **301** faces cylindrical, externally threaded mounting **303** and serves as a counter stop. Decorative section **301** utilizes a standard mounting technique to attach decorative element **302** to mount **303**, as described in the first embodiment.

- [42]. A head section **309** forms a cylindrical shaped hollow area **308**, having an internally threaded portion **307** adapted to accept cylindrical, externally threaded mounting **303**. Head section **309**

also has a circular stop **316** bordering cylindrical shaped hollow area **308** that contacts ring-shaped surface **317** when decorative section **301** is threaded into head section **309**. Cylindrical, externally threaded mounting **303** has a diameter that is approximately 20% less than a diameter of head section **309**.

FIG. 7 AND 8 - FIFTH EMBODIMENT: BAYONET ENGAGING PRIMARY ATTACHMENT

[43]. Figure 7 shows a fifth embodiment of a body decoration system **426** in accordance with the current invention, in a partially unassembled form. Body piercing section **19** and fastening section **24** are designed as they were for body decoration system **26**, **126**, **226** & **326**. A decorative section **401** is comprised of a decorative element **402**, a ring-shaped fastening section **404** attached to decorative element **402**, and a cylindrical mounting **403** attached to ring-shaped fastening section **404** and centered about axis of rotational symmetry **A**. Cylindrical mounting **403** has at least one externally attached mounting pin **407**. Decorative section **401** utilizes a standard mounting technique to attach decorative element **402** to mount **403**, as described in the first embodiment.

[44]. A head section **409** forms a cylindrical shaped hollow area **408**, having a base **408b** and at least one groove **411** which allows mounting pin **407** to be inserted into cylindrical shaped hollow area **408**. Head section **409** also has a resilient cushioning section **410** attached to base **408b** of head section **409**. Cylindrical shaped hollow area **408** has a diameter that is approximately 20% less than a diameter of head section **409**.

[45]. Figure 8 shows the fifth embodiment of a body decoration system **426** in accordance with the current invention in assembled form. With cushioning section **410** being compressed and head section **401** being twisted such that pin **407** is captured by head section **409**.

FIG. 9 - SIXTH EMBODIMENT: AXIALLY MOUNTED BODY PIERCING SECTION

[46]. Figure 9 shows a sixth embodiment of a body decoration system **526**, in accordance with the current invention. A straight body piercing section **519** has a circular cross section, a primary end **521**, and a secondary end **520**, forming a secondary attachment of body piercing section **519**. Primary end **521** of body piercing section **519** is related in detachable mating engagement with a primary attachment **525** of a fastening section **524**. Secondary external attachment **520** of body piercing section **519** is attached to a secondary internal threading **518** of a head section **509**.

[47]. Head section **509** is shown with a decorative section **501** that is related in detachable mating engagement with a primary attachment **510** of head section **509** using one of the detachable mating attachment methods disclosed above. Decorative section **501**, head section **509**, body piercing section **519** and attachment section **525** are all substantially disposed along axis of symmetry **A**.

FIG. 10 ALTERNATE SIXTH EMBODIMENT: MULTIPLE ATTACHMENT HEAD SECTION

[48]. Figure 10 shows a seventh embodiment of a body decoration system in accordance with the current invention, wherein a head section **509a** has a plurality of secondary head attachments, as exemplified by attachments **518a** and **518b**. Secondary plural head attachments are attached to one or more body piercing sections, exemplified by a curved body piercing section **619a** and a straight body piercing section **619b**.

COMMON ELEMENTS OF INVENTIVE CONCEPT

[49]. Preferably, decorative element (i.e. **2**) is essentially conical and can be fitted into an essentially conical shaped hollow area (i.e. **8**) in a head section (i.e. **9**) by inserting it, screwing it in, pushing it in, twisting it in, or otherwise fastening it in place.

[49.5]. While Fig 1 depicts the first embodiment wherein primary internal threading **10** of head section **9** mates with primary externally threaded pin **7** of decorative section **3**, it will be understood to one skilled in the art that a primary threaded pin **10a** could be fashioned within hollow area **8** of head section **9** which mates with a primary internal threaded cylinder **7a** which is attached to tip **3a**. Further, it will be understood by one skilled in the art that threaded pin **10a** shall be of a diameter that is at least somewhat smaller than hollow area **8** so as to allow threaded cylinder **7a** to be threadedly related with threaded pin **10a**.

[50]. A decorative section (i.e. **1**) preferably includes a precious metal mounting and a jewel or similar decorative element (i.e. **2**), for example a gem, that is permanently fastened into a mounting (i.e. **3**) by some method familiar to a professional. Decorative element **2** itself may also be a precious metal adornment element.

[51]. Preferably, body piercing section **19** and **519b** are designed in the shape of a curved rod with a circular cross-section, although straight rods (**519**, **519a**) could be used with a head section (i.e. **509**, **509a**) wherein primary head attachment **510** and secondary head attachment **518** lie substantially along axis of symmetry **A**.

[52]. Preferably, body piercing section **19** and fastening section **24**, for example a precious metal ball, are connected to each other but can be separated. It would be advantageous if this took place by means of an internal / external threading pair. Since especially in the case of piercing

adornment, the fastening section or the securing ball also fulfills a decorative function, it will be extremely advantageous if fastening section **24** can be exchanged or removed from the body piercing section **19**.

[53]. In addition, body piercing section **19** and head section **9**, **109**, **209**, **309**, **409** or **509** should preferably be permanently attached or can be connected together with an internal / external threading pair so they will also come apart.

[54]. It is especially simple in the manufacturing process to design all threads with the same specifications, which will reduce tooling costs for a manufacturer. Further, if all threads are standardized all the user would need to purchase would be a head section (i.e. **509a**) that satisfied their particular need. This standardization then would lead to a further reduction of costs for the end user.

[55]. The axes of the two internal threadings (i.e. **20** and **10**) in head section (i.e. **9**) are at an angle greater than 90 degrees for attaching decorative section **1**, **101**, **201**, **301**, **401** or **501** and body piercing section **19**, preferably between 90 degrees and 135 degrees, so that decorative section **1**, **101**, **201**, **301**, **401** or **501** is in an optimal position to the body of the user and so that is easy to put in place or to remove. This arrangement of the angle is advantageous body piercing section **19** takes the form of a curved rod, since the optimal orientation of the decorative element **2**, **201**, **301**, or **401** is realized in this manner, that is the decorative element **2**, **201**, **301**, **401** or **501** is facing outward so that it may be viewed. If, however, body piercing section **19** takes the form of a substantially straight rod (i.e. **519**, **519a**), as might be the case of an ear cartilage piercing, then the axes of the two internal threading **20** and **10** in head section **509** are at an angle of substantially 180 degrees for attaching decorative section **501** and body piercing section **519**. That is to say that two internal head threadings **20** and **10** substantially lie along axis of rotational symmetry **A**.

- [56]. In the case of a curved body piercing section **19**, preferably, the tangents at either end of the body piercing section **19**, and thus preferably the two axes of the external threading positioned at the ends of the body piercing section **19**, are at an angle of less than 180°, preferably between 90 degrees and 180 degrees to each other. In the case of a substantially straight body piercing section **519**, the tangents at either end (**520, 521**) of the body piercing section **519**, are at an angle of substantially 180 degrees.

OPERATION

- [57]. To insert a body decoration system **26** into a body opening (not shown), fastening section **24** is detached from the body piercing section **19** and body piercing section **19** is fed through the body opening. When body piercing section **19** emerges on the other side of the body opening, fastening section **24** is reattached to body piercing section **19**.
- [58]. To exchange a decorative section **1**, mounting **3** with decorative element **2** fastened into it is detached from head section **9** and is simply replaced by another decorative section **1**.

ADVANTAGES

- [59]. The system for body decoration in accordance with the current invention makes it very easy to replace a piercing decoration, by removing a decorative section from a head section and then replacing it with another decorative section. The body piercing section remains in the body opening or the piercing hole during this time, which is advantageous. The head section and fastening section also remain attached to the body piercing section. As a result, almost any number of decorative sections can be exchanged with the basic arrangement, comprising a body piercing section, a fastening section and a head section. Different types of decorative elements can also be used, for example elements made of precious metals, with gems, enamel, or synthetic

material such as colored acrylic. Different sizes of decorative elements can also be used. For example, a decorative section that utilizes a large gem could replace a decorative section that utilizes a smaller metal ball.

[60]. Pain and the risk of inflammation that can be caused by removing the body piercing sections that are in present use, are prevented in the current invention, while hygienic conditions and comfort for the user are increased. The specified system is greatly advantageous for working with parts of the body that are relatively inaccessible, for example the genitalia.

[61]. From the above description, a number of advantages of the body decoration system, according to the current invention, become apparent:

- (a) replaceable decorative sections facilitate an easier method of changing a decorative section than are in present use;
- (b) allowing the body piercing pin assembly to remain in the body opening while exchanging decorative sections allows for a more hygienic environment than is available with body piercing decorations that are in present use;
- (c) and thus reduces the infection or abrasion risk to the body opening that can be experienced with body piercing decorations that are in present use;
- (d) preventing loss or damage of an expensive decorative section, for example one having a diamond, during swimming or sports, by detaching and storing the detachable decorative section;
- (e) the cost of displaying a number of different decorative elements upon one's body is reduced, compared with body piercing decorations that are in present use, as only one fastener, one body piercing section and one head section are needed to facilitate any number of diverse decorative sections.

CONCLUSION, RAMIFICATIONS, AND SCOPE

[62]. Accordingly, the reader will see that the body piercing decoration system of the current invention produces a system that allows for fast and easy replacement of decorative sections, while providing these advantages in a more hygienic, safer and more cost effective manner than do the devices that are in present use. Furthermore, the body decoration system of the current invention has the additional advantages in that:

- as the fastening section, body piercing section and head section can remain in place, the likelihood of loss of the entire system is reduced, as only the decorative section need be removed;
- other attachment means could be made available to attach the head section to the decorative section, such as a U-shaped fork attachment which attaches to a protuberance, knob or button in the decorative section;
- the decorative section could integrally include the attachment means for the head section, thus removing the need for a decorative section mounting; this is especially true when the decorative element is composed of a material that can attach directly to an attachment, for example, a metal ball that is welded to a metal post, or if the material of the element can be formed directly into an attachment, such as a gem, or glass crystal that may have a post formed at the base of the gem or crystal. Further, as all threaded portions cab be similarly threaded, it would be possible to put detachable head sections on both sides of the body piercing section, thus providing attachment for two detachable decorative sections.

[63]. While specific apparatus and method have been disclosed in the proceeding description, it should be understood that these specifics have been given for the purpose of disclosing the principals of the present invention. These specifics should not be construed as limiting the scope or spirit of the invention, but merely providing illustrations of some of the presently preferred embodiments of the current invention.

[64]. It should further be understood that many variations of the current inventive concept may become apparent to those who are versed in the art of the current invention. For example, the decorative section could be manufactured as a square, cubic, spherical, or random shape, rather than as cone-shaped; the body piercing section could be large and long, such as when piercing an arm or leg, or it could be short and thin, as when used for an earring; etc.

[65]. Thus the scope of the present invention is to be determined by the appended claims and their legal equivalents, rather than by the examples given.